

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 17 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A one-way valve for discharging a flowable material from a container of a reducible volume, comprising:

an independent valve seat which is positioned in an opening defined by a neck of the container and comprises a base body which rests on an inner wall of the container neck and contains at least one through hole, and a projection having an end section, said projection extending axially from said base body;

an elastic seal which comprises an annular section seated on and covering said at least one through hole, and a sleeve-like section which surrounds the projection at a radial distance with the exception of its end section; and

a non-removable cap configured to enclose said valve seat and said seal and defining an exit opening, wherein when the one-way valve is in a closed state, said annular section is seated on said at least one through hole to prevent contaminants from entering the container through said at least one through hole and said end sections of said projection and said seal ~~rest~~ are positioned in said exit opening and are in engagement to seal said exit opening, and when the one-way valve is in an open state, said annular section moves away from said at least one through hole and said end section of said seal moves upwardly out of said exit opening to dis-engage said end section of said seal from said end section of said

projection to allow the material to pass through said at least one through hole and be discharged from said exit opening.

2. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 1, wherein a sterilization means is arranged in the flow path of the flowable material.

3. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 1, wherein the base body contains a plurality of through holes radially outside of the projection.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 1, wherein the projection of the valve seat has a circular cylindrical shape and said end section has a tapering, preferably conically beveled shape.

6. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 1, wherein the projection of the valve seat has an arcuate contour in longitudinal section.

7. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 1, wherein an upper edge of the projection is arranged inside the container opening.

8. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 1, wherein the annular section of the seal has a planar shape and is held by an annular projection of the cap radially outside of the at least one through hole in contact with the base plate of the valve seat.

9. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 1, wherein the sleeve-like section of the seal in longitudinal section, starting from the annular section, is configured to be first cylindrical, then conical and then cylindrical again on its outside.

10. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 1, wherein the sleeve-like section in longitudinal section has an arcuate contour.

11. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 1, wherein the end section of the sleeve-like section has an inner contour corresponding to the circumferential surface of the end section of the projection and, moreover, rests with its outer wall on the narrow, which is rounded in cross section, of the wall of the container opening, so that the annular gap between the end section of the projection of the valve seat and the inner wall of the container opening is tightly closed in the closed state of the one-way valve.

12. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 1, wherein the upper edge of the sleeve-like section of the seal is in alignment with the upper side of the cap in the closed state of the valve.

13. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 2, wherein the sterilization means is a spiral-like sterilization element which surrounds the projection.

14. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 3, wherein the sterilization element in the closed state of the valve is, on the upper end portion, in contact with both the projection and the sleeve-like section of the seal.

15. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 3, wherein the sterilization element consists of silver or of another metal having an oligodynamic action, or of a substance having a bactericidal action, or is coated therewith.

16. (Previously Presented) The one-way valve according to claim 2, wherein the sterilization means is formed by coating at least parts of the valve seat and/or the

seal with metals having an oligodynamic action or with substances having a bactericidal action.

17. (Currently Amended) A one-way valve for discharging a flowable material from a container of a reducible volume, comprising:

a non-removable cap seated on a neck of the container and defining an exit opening that allows the flowable material to exit the container;

a valve seat which is positioned in an opening defined by the container neck and includes a base body including a planar base plate having at least one through hole and a circumferential wall including an externally surrounding shoulder that engages an edge of the container neck, and a projection which extends in an axial direction of the container neck towards the exit opening;

an elastic seal including an annular section seated on and covering said at least one through hole to prevent contaminants from entering the container through said at least one through hole and a sleeve-like section which surrounds the projection at a radial distance with the exception of its end section, which in the closed state of the one-way valve, rests in its positioned in the exit opening and engaged with on the end section of the projection to seal the exit opening for preventing the flowable material from passing through said exit opening;
and

wherein the annular section of the seal has a planar shape and is held by an annular projection of said cap radially outside of said at least one through hole in contact with said base plate of said valve seat.